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CDPM COMMUNIQUE

CDPM was informed through the press of the final communiqué of the meeting between the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister on the issue of East-Timor and the role of Portugal. At a first glance, the CDPM considers the text to be quite positive and hopeful:

1. The Portuguese supreme powers responsible for the Portuguese policy on East-Timor are the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister. Since this is the first meeting held in 1984 between the two powers responsible for the issue and since they have shown their intention of holding further meetings, the CDPM feels that this may be considered to be a declaration of intentions and a first step in the definition of a active portuguese policy on the subject of East-Timor.

2. In respect to principles, we are glad to acknowledge that the communiqué of the Presidency expresses: respect for the will and aspirations of the people of East-Timor, the respect for the International principles and for the right to self-determination, the need for Portugal to collaborate with the United Nations Secretary General in search of a political solution for the issue, the need for dialogue between all the parts directly involved in the conflict - without which principles it would never be possible to find a political solution to the satisfaction of the interests of the people of East Timor.

3. The official communiqué recognises the value and justice of the opinion and efforts undertaken by the World Movement of Solidarity with the Maubere People - expressed by members of the Church, intellectuals, parlamentarians, Governments and non-governmental organisations - in contrast with disinterest shown until now by the Prime Minister and the Foreign Affairs Minister, this declaration let us also with the hope of a real inflexion of the Portuguese policy on the matter.

However, from the declaration of principles (which, by itself, constitutes an important step) to its implementation, there is still other phases to be defined - on one hand, the definition of what practical action should be taken, on the other hand, the analysis of the reality in relation to which action must be taken. In this aspect we feel obliged to point out a mistake (whether a redactorial mistake or a mistake in the political interpretation

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of the East-Timorese reality) which is found in the official communiqué and which may have major consequences in the future: the statement that, in East-Timor, there is a confrontation between the occupying Indonesians and "elements" who resist this occupation. This statement denies two essential facts:

1. the reistance of the the Maubere people as a role, to the Indonesian occupation and aggression;
2. the role of Fretilin as a National Liberation Movement which exists thanks to the support and the generalized spirit of resistance of the people, of which Fretilin itself is an organized expression and spokesvoice.

To reduce a people in struggle to "resisting elements"is,to say the least, a unlucky expression and causes concern as to the action to be undertaken in the future by the Portuguese Government.

Very shortly Portuguese Diplomacy will have to face an important battle: the meeting of the Sub-Commission of Minorities and the Commission for Decolonisation (August) and the United Nations General Assembly (Set/Oct).

We hope that the Portuguese Government will have an active role in these meetings in accordance with the general principles now expressed.

(Lisbon, 20th July 1984).

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